

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price's

District 3 Slate

July 2007

Third District, County of San Diego

INSIDE: County Awarded \$23 Million / Page 2

• Libraries Unite Communities, Learning / Page 3



County's Fiscal Strength Improves

Due to a continued strong economy and conservative budgeting, the County of San Diego has seen its bond rating upgraded again. Fitch Ratings of New York improved the county's rating on its \$1.47 billion in long-term debt to "AA" from "AA-." The upgrade means the county will pay less interest on the money it borrows.

In its analysis, Fitch determined "San Diego County is a conservative debt issuer, opting to cast fund projects when resources become available and utilizing one-time revenue for early debt reduction as well.

"The county's total direct debt is low ... The county's economy continues its strong performance, with resilience during the past recession notable. Employment gains have been steady, averaging 1.7 percent per year from 1999-2006 and experiencing no annual decline during this period. The county's unemployment rate remains below state and national averages."

The Fitch analysis is another validation of the leadership undertaken by the current Board of Supervisors, explained Supervisor Pam Slater-Price.

"We follow our policy of prudent budgeting with the philosophy that taxpayers are right to expect accountability of their elected officials," said Slater-Price. "This board subscribes to specific principles - plan for the future, budget appropriately, and stay the course of your economic discipline. This board has exceeded its target level of setting aside 17 percent of general purpose revenue - more than \$164 million - in case something unavoidable occurs here."



Summer is here and so is the threat of accidental injury. Supervisor Pam Slater-Price demonstrated how fast temperatures can rise by placing a thermometer in a vehicle with all the windows cracked for less than 15 minutes. In that time, the temperature inside the vehicle rose to 100 degrees while the outside temperature was less than 80 degrees.

Stay Cool ... Stay Alert This Summer

It is the season to be outdoors, to enjoy all that San Diego County has to offer. But summer is also a time for caution, to be aware of how a careless moment can turn into tragedy.

Take, for instance, that "quick" trip into the supermarket. Inside the car, its window cracked open to let a breeze through, is Fido the pet dog. Or Baby Jane, sitting in her safety seat. The only problem is that it takes minutes for that vehicle's interior to heat up to dangerous levels. A recent demonstration performed by Supervisor Pam Slater-Price show how quickly danger approaches - during that "quick" store

stop the temperature inside the vehicle shot up to 100 degrees!

If you come across such a situation, call the proper authorities immediately.

County officials are also asking that neighbors keep an eye on their neighbors, especially if they are elderly or disabled. Heat exhaustion can occur quickly, especially for someone living in a closed-up house.

The County of San Diego has a program of more than 150 "Cool Zones" where somebody can go to beat the heat. Simply call (800) 510-2020 to find the zone closest to you.

Enjoy A Musical Summer, Too!

One of the delights of summer is enjoying a concert on the green, sitting in a lawn chair, the sun setting as the sweet sounds of jazz or classical music fill the evening air. Funded in part through a community projects grant issued by Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society is hosting renowned tenor Daniel Hendrick when its Twilight Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 11 at the Bernardo Winery. Doors open at 5. Ticket information is available by calling (858) 673-4647 or at www.rbhistoricalsociety.org.

News of Note

New Info Tech Officer Is Hired

With 30 years' of experience, William Crowell brings to the County of San Diego a depth of knowledge from both the private and public sector. He assumed the post of Chief Information Officer, overseeing the county's information technology services. Crowell comes from the State of Oregon where he was chief information officer for the Department of Human Services.

Check Your Plants For This Invader

A live Japanese beetle has been found in Vista, at the same location where the pest was first discovered a year ago. The Japanese beetle is the most widespread turfgrass pest in the United States and expenditures to control it exceed \$460 million annually. The beetle also causes extensive damage to ornamental plants.



Adult beetles feed on the leaves and fruit of more than 300 species of plants, while larvae feed on roots. An adult Japanese beetle is a little less than half-inch long and has a shiny, metallic-green body and bronze-colored outer wings, with small tufts of white hair along the sides of its body, under the edges of its wings.

The public can help by reporting suspicious bugs to (800) 491-1899. For more information, visit the county website at www.sdcawm.org.

Wanted: Female Deputy Recruits

A free seminar spotlighting career opportunities for women in the county Sheriff's Department takes place at 6 p.m. Aug. 7 at the Sheriff's Administrative Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court in Kearny Mesa. Call (858) 974-2336 or e-mail your reservation to recruit@sdsheriff.org. Include your name and phone number.

Parks Want You To Get Out (doors)!

Opportunities abound for volunteers who want to get out and enjoy serving their communities while staying active. The county Parks & Recreation Department is looking for docents, youth mentors, event coordinators and other volunteers. Learn more by calling (858) 966-1335 or visiting www.sdparks.org.



SPREADING THE WORD...

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price cosponsored the Vital Aging Conference held at the Town & Country Resort in Mission Valley. The conference was simulcast to other participants in North County who were at the California Center for the Performing Arts in Escondido. As a leading advocate of promoting healthy lifestyle choices and reducing obesity in children, Supervisor Slater-Price stressed the necessity of making informed dietary choices combined with proper exercise. She noted that one in four seniors fail to partake of regular physical activity. She challenged the attendees to spread the message that it is never too late to get fit.

San Diego County Awarded \$23 Million To Preserve Open Space And Wildlife

Building upon its reputation as a steward of open space, the County of San Diego has been awarded an unprecedented \$23 million to acquire additional tracts of property that fit into the region's nationally renowned Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP). Funding comes through the California Wildlife Conservation Board.

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price intends to direct funds toward land acquisition to preserve the region's quality of life. Funds will preserve and protect vital habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife and plant species, including the arroyo toad,

California gnatcatcher, San Diego fairy shrimp and Stephens' kangaroo rat.

These grants are good news to the residents of the Third District, where conservation projects include the effort to preserve a regional park stretching from the ocean mouth in Del Mar east to Vulcan Mountain near Julian.

This year, the federal Department of the Interior awarded a total of \$68 million from the Cooperative Endangered Species Fund to 21 states to support conservation planning and land acquisition. San Diego County got \$23 million of this funding, which enables public agencies to work closely with willing private landowners.

AROUND THE THIRD DISTRICT

Top Knotch Libraries In Encinitas, Del Mar

Library Construction Takes Place

It has been said that a library is “a hospital for the mind.” Or, as Walt Disney reflected, “There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate’s loot on Treasure Island.” Some people today believe that libraries are archaic, obsolete, that, due to the computer technology and the Internet, a library’s time has come and gone. If anything, the opposite is true. Libraries today are in greater demand, offer more services, and touch the lives of more people, than anytime in the past.

For these reasons and more, Supervisor Pam Slater-Price remains a dedicated proponent of libraries. Recently, she explained her views during a gathering to mark the efforts to rebuild the Encinitas Library.

“As a former teacher and mayor of Encinitas, I know first-hand how important libraries are to cities. As Supervisor, I understand the vital role the County plays to help each city provide the educational materials necessary for students and the general public,” explained Supervisor Slater-Price.

“As a parent, I know how important libraries are to our children’s development. Education is the cornerstone to our communities and libraries are an essential piece of this foundation.”

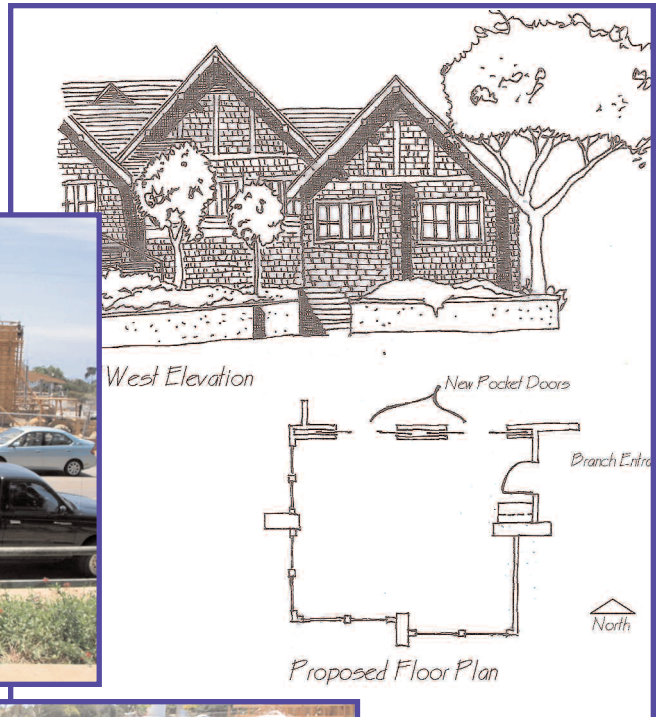
Slater-Price was in Encinitas to acknowledge the efforts of the Encinitas City Council and the Friends of the Encinitas Library, which raised \$100,000 that will be used to purchase new books and other materials when the 27,000-square-foot library reopens next year. Slater-Price and San Diego County Library Director Jose Aponte pledged to match the Friends’ contribution.

“I congratulate my former council member, Anne Omsted, the co-president of the Friends of the Encinitas Library, for being such a dynamic, tireless volunteer during this long process,” said Slater-Price. “When Anne takes on a cause she believes in, you can rest assured that she will put every ounce of energy she has into the project.

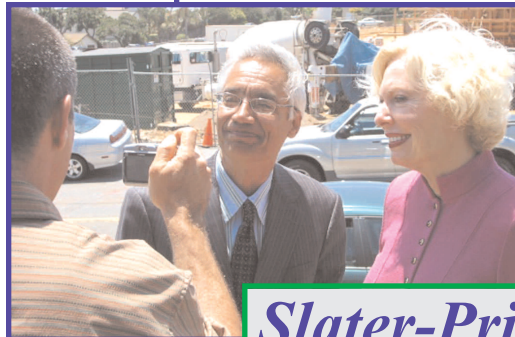
“Encinitas’ new library will truly enhance the unique character of this wonderful city. I am honored to be a small part of this communitywide effort.”

As for those who have the belief that libraries are doomed to extinction, Slater-Price quoted the actor Kirk Douglas:

“My mother and father were illiterate immigrants from Russia. When I was a child they were constantly amazed that I could go to a building and take a book on any subject. They couldn’t believe this access to knowledge we have here in America. They couldn’t believe that it was free.”



Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (above) joined San Diego County Library Director Jose Aponte and Friends of the Encinitas Library Sheila Cameron (left) and Anne Omsted for the announcement of a \$100,000 donation to the library.



County Library Director Jose Aponte and a library supporter chat with Supervisor Slater-Price (left). Plans for improving the Del Mar Library (above) include enclosing a 450-square-foot patio.

Slater-Price Grant Assists DM Library

Change is in store for the Del Mar Library, which will undergo an expansion of the 1914-era building. A 460-square-foot patio-terrace facing 13th Street will be enclosed, adding much-needed space to the library.

Supervisor Slater-Price awarded the project \$200,000 in county funds, and the Friends of the Del Mar Library are contributing another \$50,000. The expansion will be overseen the county Department of Library Services. The additional square-footage increases the size of the library by 10 percent with the new wing to debut in spring 2008.

“The Del Mar Library is not only *in* the heart of Del Mar but *is* the heart of the city,” said Slater-Price. “This marks a great day for patrons and residents.”

AROUND THE THIRD DISTRICT



FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The City of Encinitas held its debut Encinitas Environment Day on a recent Saturday to highlight how residents can incorporate "green" practices into their lives and homes. Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (above) was the keynote speaker for the event. Afterwards, the supervisor spent time chatting with residents.

Slater-Price is leading the effort to rebuild the Visitor's Center at the San Elijo Lagoon using "green" building practices and materials.



WORTHY HONORS

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price issues a county proclamation to artist director Sean Murray, founder of Cygnet Theatre (above). The honor took place at the third annual "Sundown Soiree" benefit for the non-profit theater group. Steve Vanlandingham (below) of Van's Automotive received the county's Clean Air Award for efforts taken by his business.



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